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**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicant(s): O. YOKOMIZO, et al  
Serial No.: 08/470,424  
Filed: June 6, 1995  
For: FUEL ASSEMBLY AND NUCLEAR REACTOR  
Group: 3641  
Examiner: H. Behrend

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**AMENDMENT AFTER FINAL ACTION**

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

January 27, 2000

Sir:

The following amendments and remarks are respectfully submitted in connection with the above-identified application in response to the Office Action dated August 25, 1999.

**IN THE SPECIFICATION:**

Page 18, line 35, delete "and 3B" insert --, 3B and 3C--.

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please amend claims 24, 29, 52 and 56 as follows:

24. (twice amended) A method for operating a nuclear reactor having a reactor vessel, a plurality of fuel assemblies loaded in a core arranged inside the reactor